

STAT

**Page Denied**

STAT

INCREASED MEASURES TO COMBAT FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE IN POLANDMedycyna WeterynaryjnaVol IX, No 1, pp 4, 5, 47, 48  
Warsaw, Jan 1953

The resolution of the presidium of the government of 28 November 1952 [see appendix], regarding increased measures against foot-and-mouth disease, is an effective aid to the veterinary service, since it further outlines our course of action and, at the same time, insures execution of the veterinary program for combating this disease. The fight against epizootic foot-and-mouth disease, which inflicts great losses both directly and indirectly and, above all, disturbs our economic life, falls not only within the sphere of activity of the veterinary service but concerns all administrative and economic levels. The concrete effect of this fight will be the realization of the plan for increasing animal production. The directives and indications which the resolution conveys to us are signposts for our whole service in carrying out this fight and, as directives of both the party and the government, must be carried out without fail.

The particular importance of the resolution is not derived solely from the directives and commitments it makes concerning further action, but to a marked degree its importance is derived from the critical review of previous activities of the veterinary service. This critical appraisal, which is completely justified, imposes on us the responsibility of drawing from it appropriate conclusions, so that, in the future, we can avoid the repetition of previous errors. Without a doubt, at the time of the first onslaught of foot-and-mouth disease, a myth was spread concerning the mildness of the infection. This was accompanied by the intimation that while there were large losses in capitalist countries, our country was afflicted with only a mild form of the disease. The propagation of an atmosphere of optimism, concerning the course of the struggle against this epizootic dulled the vigilance of agricultural workers and caused them to underestimate the danger threatening the country's animal husbandry.

The efforts of the field service, which were intended to localize the infection and control the situation, and which, during the early period of the fight against the disease, were not considered urgent, did not produce the desired results. Moreover, the field service felt isolated, and their chronic lack of mobility made it impossible for them to reach the foci of infection rapidly. It is a matter of general knowledge that every epizootic is a source of great and threatening danger, since a contagious disease which is not checked when it first appears can cause catastrophic results.

Therefore, mobilization for the fight to overcome a contagious disease should not start after the whole country is overrun with the disease, but at the first outbreak. Without denying beforehand the effect of the fight, without exaggerating the virulence of the disease and without yielding to a spirit of fatalism, the fight must be begun at the time of the initial onslaught, using all available resources. The problem involved in a co-ordinated struggle against foot-and-mouth disease takes on very real significance, since the tendency of this epizootic to spread like wildfire requires great effort in order to control it. The government resolution not only realistically and critically appraises our situation, which without a doubt is very serious, and points out the errors committed in this work up to the present, but it also gives concrete guidance and rules to be followed in continuing the fight against foot-and-mouth disease.

STAT

The winter period is particularly dangerous: on the one hand, it facilitates the solution of the problem and makes it possible to liquidate individual outbreaks; on the other, it favors the preservation of the bacilli and promotes their survival. We must remember that the virulence of the bacilli and the possibility of their changing into different types depends to a great degree on the number of times they are transmitted. Thus, the winter period of activity in the fight against foot-and-mouth disease will be decisive for the future pasture period, for the whole of 1952, and indeed for the over-all production of livestock.

Evaluating the work already done by our service and its positive efforts to control the situation, the resolution also critically appraises the work of the people's councils, and other social and economic organizations which have not demonstrated consistent resoluteness and have not assured the proper execution of the sanitary-veterinary directives. The lack of assistance, and often lack of interest in the problem of foot-and-mouth disease, has disillusioned the field service in its struggle against the disease. This, in turn, has weakened discipline in connection with the execution of the directives of the veterinary authorities. In support of the resolution and obediently following the definite course prescribed by our progressive administration, the field service is obliged to ruthlessly report all violations and crimes, and immediately turn over guilty persons to the public prosecutor.

In the present fight against foot-and-mouth disease during the winter and spring, and until the final eradication of the disease, the veterinary service is not alone. The whole zootechnical service and the agricultural services of all the organs of the people's councils are directly involved in this action. The organs of the MO (Miliya Obshchestva, Citizen's Militia), at the request of the appropriate soviet people's councils, are obliged to establish sentry posts. The delivery of the required amounts of material supplies such as equipment, medicines, and biopharmaceutical preparations has been assured.

Increased activity in the program for popularizing science and acquainting agricultural and animal husbandry workers with the symptoms of the disease, with its prevention, and with the importance and economic consequences of the problem will be of great assistance in carrying out this fight. As a part of this campaign, we must put an end to mistaken opinions about the mildness of the course of foot-and-mouth disease and to the tendency to consider the problem from the limited viewpoint of one's own farm. Every person who works with animals must be taught that restricting the further spread of this disease and eliminating other difficulties in the development of animal husbandry depend on the conscientious observance and execution of the directives of the veterinary authorities.

The farmers must, likewise, be informed that not carrying out these directives is equivalent to breaking the law and is considered an act hostile to the interests of the people's government. We must do everything possible to assure the development of our animal husbandry and the fulfillment of this part of the Six-Year Plan. Not only the party and the government but, above all, every working man and every honest agricultural or animal husbandry worker demands this of us.

In addition to giving a correct picture of the present situation and past achievements and a realistic analysis of the errors that have been made, the resolution defines precisely the duties of the various administrative levels and economic units. In this regard, the veterinary service of the Ministry of Agriculture is assigned the responsibility and authority for supervising other organizations in the execution of the recommendations of the resolution. This explicit assignment of responsibility for the epidemic condition of the country is accompanied by a continuous stream of extraordinary powers.

STAT

In this way the party and the Government, appreciating the significance of foot-and-mouth disease, have given the veterinary service and the organs of the field authorities a powerful weapon in the fight against the disease. Thus, within the shortest possible period of time, the entire veterinary service -- doctors, technicians, sanitary workers, and progressive foremen -- and the entire zootechnical service must be integrated and utilized in carrying out the anti-foot-and-mouth disease measures. Using this cadre, precise and frequent inspections must be made of all existing purchase points, creameries, and milk-bottling plants.

In all veterinary regions not already staffed by the professional service, veterinary stations must be set up at the powiat level. Similarly, there should be no regional or powiat stations without sufficient equipment to undertake anti-foot-and-mouth disease measures. In cases of confirmed negligence in this respect, it will be necessary to take official disciplinary measures and, simultaneously, to report the matter to the Central Veterinary Authority so that the needed supplies can be ordered.

The most important problem, the solution of which will assure the carrying out of the directive, is the immediate production, in the powiats, of special disinfection equipment, to be used in the final purification and disinfection of infected farms. A doctor must check the accuracy with which this disinfection is carried out, since any negligence in this respect will result in a later recurrence of the disease. It would be inexcusable nonsense to rely solely on the issuing of paper directives, or to count exclusively on the good intentions of the agricultural and animal husbandry workers.

At present, considering the special urgency for quick and efficient eradication of the bacilli, it will be necessary to carry out the disinfection and thorough cleansing of all animal-raising establishments, and to provide the required amount of slaked lime (unclaked?) for this purpose. This universal cleansing and disinfection operation will be in the nature of a test, and similar action will be repeated in the spring. The disinfection teams must be adequately equipped with the tools and materials required for disinfection.

On infected farms, producer's cooperatives, and FGRs (Panstwowe Gospodarstwa Rolne, State Farms), particularly during the calving season, an adequate amount of serum from recovered animals must be provided for all valuable breeding animals. With this in mind, we must strongly support the work of the blood-collecting teams in the nearest area, since we will ensure the production of serum in this way.

It is indisputable that one of the casual factors favoring the spread of the foot-and-mouth disease virus is the excessive and often even unnecessary transportation of animals from one place to another. The resolution, therefore, makes it the duty of the zootechnical and veterinary services to restrict the transportation of animals in infected or threatened powiats and, in other powiats, to limit it to only what is economically necessary. Animals may be transported only by obtaining the prior approval of the presidium of the Powiat People's Council of the PZW, (Powiatowe Zarzady Weterynarii, Powiat Veterinary Administrations). In the centers of the animal husbandry collectives, the main stress will be on prophylactic actions and on preventing the introduction of new farms.

That part of the veterinary service under the Ministry of National Defense will also take part in the control work and also in the work of orienting and informing the broad masses of agricultural workers.

Significantly greater attention than heretofore must be given to the disinfection of slaughterhouses, purchasing and selling places, and markets. In addition to the special controls performed by the Ministry of Agriculture, the resolution makes it the duty of the Ministry of Domestic Affairs to organize domestic controls.

STAT

In complying with the directives, it is necessary to designate by name the persons who will be responsible for carrying out the various sanitary-veterinary measures. Past practice has shown that failure to designate specific persons as being responsible for the rectification of mistakes, or for the execution of disinfection, particularly in dairy establishments, milk-bottling plants, and stock yards, results in the faulty execution of the orders.

The fight against foot-and-mouth disease will require the expenditure of a great amount of time and energy on the part of our whole service. Therefore the staff of our professional cadre, which will take a direct part in this effort, has been substantially enlarged. An adequate amount of disinfection materials and implements and the required transportation have been assured. As to the latter, the resolution makes it mandatory for the area authorities to place at the disposal of the veterinary service all the available means of transportation in any given poviat. In like manner, local-administrative procedures have undergone considerable improvement.

We must resolutely obtain and maintain the proper respect for the published directives, so that they will not be mere scraps of paper. We must ruthlessly put an end to the tendency to overlook matters which require severe strictures and punishments, for this problem has long since gone beyond the realm of neighborly concern. The complete eradication of outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease should be a point of honor for every worker in the veterinary service. The past year-period will verify our work in this respect. Enjoying the full support of the government and the confidence of the party, the veterinary service must accomplish its appointed task!

APPENDIX

Resolution No 1107/52 of the Presidium of the Government,  
25 November 1952, on Intensified Measures for Combating  
Foot-and-Mouth Disease

Foot-and-mouth disease has assumed menacing proportions, and is showing a tendency to spread into areas which have been free of it up until this time. When the disease first appeared, the Ministry of Agriculture was under the impression that it was the mild form of the disease, and did not fully appreciate the great danger threatening the country. The Ministry was particularly unaware of the fact that foot-and-mouth disease by its remarkable capacity to spread can cause great and widespread economic losses. Furthermore, the Ministry did not know that if the bacilli of the disease were not energetically eradicated, their virulence would increase, producing a severe and highly fatal form of the disease, and thereby increasing the losses among afflicted cloven-hoofed animal herds. The efforts of the veterinary service workers, which were intended to control and clear up the situation, were insufficient and did not produce the desired or anticipated results.

The people's councils did not concern themselves with the fight against foot-and-mouth disease and did not utilize the state administrative apparatus and the broad power of the people. Consequently, the councils did not display consistent resoluteness and did not enforce the required discipline in the execution of the prescribed protective and sanitary measures. They neglected to use the prescribed legal procedures provided by the administrative administration in order to bring about their obligatory execution. Too little attention is given to the problem of prophylaxis or to the measures for instructing the broad masses of the population.

STAT

In like manner, the entire veterinary service did not actively participate in the struggle against the disease. Similarly, veterinary workers assigned to other organizations did not assist in the work.

There was also a perceptible lack of properly organized participation by the scientific research organizations responsible for developing new prophylactic and therapeutic methods for the treatment of foot-and-mouth disease.

Therefore, in order to bring about a radical change in our methods of combating foot-and-mouth disease, the most rapid and efficient restriction of its further spread, and, ultimately, its complete eradication, it will be necessary:

1. To mobilize all the workers of the zootechnical service, the agricultural service, the entire apparatus of the wojewod, powiat, and gmin people's councils, the apparatus of the MS, and the area outposts of the economic institutes for active participation in the fight against foot-and-mouth disease. Consequently, it will be necessary to conform with the legally provided protective veterinary measures, to prosecute revealed violations and crimes, and to carry out twice a year the prophylactic disinfection of all farms and institutions maintaining susceptible animals.
2. To make available supplies of necessary technical and sanitary instruments, medical and disinfection materials, and means of transportation. It will be necessary to provide sales places, places where animals are held temporarily pending transfer, and establishments collecting and processing raw materials from animals with the necessary means for complying with the veterinary protective regulations; particularly those regarding sanitation and disinfection.
3. To strengthen prophylactic measures by increasing the production of vaccines made from the blood of animals which have recovered from the disease, by organizing special disinfection teams, by enlarging the network of veterinary medicine institutions, by organizing scientific research centers for foot-and-mouth disease, and by the prophylactic use of foot-and-mouth disease vaccines.
4. To develop a general program for informing the people about methods of combating foot-and-mouth disease, to popularize prophylactic procedures, to make known existing regulations, and, finally, to mobilize the people for an all-out fight against the disease by utilizing the resources of the producers' organizations.

In connection with the above-mentioned resolution of the Presidium, the duties of the various ministries shall be as follows:

1. Ministry of Agriculture

a. Mobilize all the workers in the veterinary service, the zootechnical service, and the agricultural service for the fight against foot-and-mouth disease.

b. Create special period disinfection teams equipped with the necessary instruments and materials.

The Ministry of Agriculture is at the same time authorized to engage workers who will be paid by the day to assist the MS in performing the tasks connected with the fight against foot-and-mouth disease.

STAT

c. Enlarge the network of veterinary research laboratories by establishing, equipping, and staffing 112 new veterinary stations during 1953, and, in this way, better protect the herds from the complications accompanying and following foot-and-mouth disease.

d. Instruct the PIW (Panstwowy Instytut Weterynaryjny, State Veterinary Institute) to undertake research on the modernization of therapeutic and prophylactic measures designed to combat foot-and-mouth disease, and to start the experimental production of prophylactic foot-and-mouth disease vaccines before 1 March 1953. With this in mind, it will be necessary to create a foot-and-mouth disease division in the PIW.

e. Produce anti-foot-and-mouth disease serum from recovered animals in amounts sufficient to protect valuable herds of breeding animals, high-production animals, and animals of new breeds on threatened farms, and especially on all RZS (Rolnicze Zrzeszenie Spoldzielcze Agricultural Cooperative Associations) and all PGR (Panstwowe Gospodarstwa Rolne, State Farms).

f. Develop a general program to inform the people about foot-and-mouth disease, using the press, radio, wired-radio system, films, slides, lectures, brochures, posters, leaflets, etc.; and include this subject in all programs designed to popularize agricultural science.

g. Reward and recommend for decorations government personnel who distinguish themselves in the fight against foot-and-mouth disease.

## 2. Ministry of State Farms

a. Subordinate the apparatus of its own veterinary services, which are engaged in combating foot-and-mouth disease on state farms and neighboring collectives, to the veterinary service of the people's council.

b. Restrict the movement of susceptible and valuable breeding animals in regions affected or threatened by foot-and-mouth disease. In other areas, limit such movements of animals to the essential needs of the PZW in the area.

c. Protect herds of susceptible animals, including the young (calves, lambs, and pigs), by paying strict attention to prophylactic hygiene regulations; and supply afflicted animals with suitable fodder, feeding them more intensively during and after the disease period. Special care must be given to pregnant animals both at the time of delivery and during the period of increased lactation.

d. Supply organizations and farms with the prophylactic, therapeutic, and disinfection material prescribed by the veterinary service.

e. Designate persons on the producers' cooperatives and the state farms in regions under their jurisdiction, who will be responsible for carrying out thorough prophylaxis, by accurately complying with the veterinary regulations and for establishing necessary controls.

3. Ministry of National Defense shall be obliged to grant the military veterinary service permission to participate in the fight against foot-and-mouth disease whenever such participation is requested by the people's council of the PZW (Gospodarstwo Narodowe, State of the People's Council of the PZW (Gospodarstwo Narodowe, State of the Veterinary Administration).

4. Ministry of Domestic Trade and the Chairman of the Central Office for Purchases and Contracts.

STAT

a. Supply equipment necessary to prevent foot-and-mouth disease to the organizations under their jurisdiction, particularly slaughterhouses, markets, and places where hooved animals and animal fats are sold.

b. Designate persons in these organizations who will be responsible for accurately complying with the directives of the veterinary service of the people's councils and for organizing internal controls.

c. Limit the transportation of susceptible animals to only that which is economically necessary.

5. The Ministry of Domestic Trade shall make available through the distribution network of the grain cooperative stores, Samopomoc Chlopaka (Peasant Self-help), 25,000 tons of lump-form unstaked lime so that general prophylactic disinfection measures can be performed simultaneously on all farms and establishments maintaining susceptible animals.

6. Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Industry

a. Provide the establishments under its jurisdiction, particularly dairy establishments, slaughterhouses with stock yards, and processing plants, with the equipment necessary to prevent the spread of foot-and-mouth disease.

b. Designate persons in these establishments who will be responsible for accurately complying with the directives of the veterinary service of the people's councils, and for organizing internal controls.

7. Other interested ministries -- in particular the Ministries of Railroads, Highway and Air Transportation, and Shipping -- shall purify and disinfect all transportation equipment used in transporting animals, raw animal hides, or animal scraps, loading places and loading equipment immediately after use. They shall also provide for the disinfection of all workers engaged directly in such sanitization, loading, or transportation.

8. The Ministry of Highway and Air Transportation shall amend the resolution of the Council of Ministers of 5 September 1951 (Dzial Urzedowy [Official Matters] No 49, item 359), point 4, section 1, paragraph 1, in such a way as to guarantee the necessary means of transportation for fighting infectious animal diseases; and carry out the regulation of this matter under the provisions of section 2, paragraph 1 of the same resolution.

9. The Ministry of Health shall increase controls over the execution of sanitation-veterinary measures in dairy establishments situated in areas infected with or threatened by foot-and-mouth disease, and particularly of measures dealing with the sterilization of milk and the disinfection and disinfection of these establishments.

10. The Ministry of Education shall require that all teaching staffs inform persons studying in schools and other organizations about the foot-and-mouth disease measures, by explaining the leaflet, posters, and press articles on the subject.

11. The Ministry of Finance shall provide the funds necessary required in order to carry out the provisions of this resolution.

12. The Chairman of the Economic Planning Commission shall, in so far as it is possible under the provisions of the economic plan, provide the organizations concerned with essential equipment and necessary supplies.

STAT

13. The chairman of the State Cadre Commission shall assign the required number of motorcycles to the field veterinary service engaged in the fight against foot-and-mouth disease during 1952.

14. The commander of the Main Citizens Militia shall issue directives to his subordinate organs, making it their duty to cooperate with the veterinary service in checking the following:

- a. Farms and regions infected or threatened by foot-and-mouth disease.
- b. Places where large numbers of animals are kept temporarily, i.e., sales places, markets, and loading pens.
- c. Establishments collecting and processing animal products, i.e., dairy establishments, slaughterhouses, etc.
- d. Public roads where susceptible animals are being transported. Any violations or transgression shall be reported. Persons guilty of violating the veterinary directives shall be prosecuted.

15. The Ministry of Justice shall issue directives so that matters pertaining to the punishment of crimes committed in the fight against foot-and-mouth disease may be investigated as rapidly as possible, at the latest, within 15 days after the crime has been committed.

In order to carry out the measures for combating foot-and-mouth disease as efficiently as possible, the presidiums of the volksovetes, raion, and gain people's councils are made responsible for activities within their own spheres of action:

In connection with this, the presidium of the government makes it the duty of the respective presidiums of the people's councils:

1. To mobilize and take part in the increased fight against foot-and-mouth disease.
2. To supervise the accurate execution of the veterinary directives designed to eliminate outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease.
3. To carry out frequent general inspections in regions infected and threatened by foot-and-mouth disease. In cases of violations, the presidiums are obligated to turn the guilt over to the prosecutor's office, so that sentence may be pronounced as rapidly as possible and at the latest, within 5 days after the guilty person has been placed in the custody of the prosecutor's office.
4. To ensure the field veterinary service of requisite transportation by providing them with the personal means of transportation used by the respective presidiums.
5. In cases of necessity, to put at the disposition of the MSU and FMU, at their request, the required number of trucks according to transport disinfection forms, materials, and equipment for infection work.
6. To organize and facilitate the execution of regular prophylactic disinfection measures carried out by the people on all agricultural farms and any other establishments maintaining holed animals. These measures must be carried out in the spring, before the animals are driven out to pasture, and in the fall.

STAT

7. To designate a member of a main people's council to be responsible for executing veterinary directives should his community be infected with, or threatened by foot-and-mouth disease. This person should be thoroughly trained by the powiat veterinary administration.

This resolution goes into effect immediately.

Poleslaw Bierut, Chairman,  
Council of Ministers

- E N D -

STAT